

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated February 27, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 9-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,519,701 (Kawamura et al.).

By the present response, Applicants have amended claims 9-19 to further clarify the invention. Applicants have submitted new claims 20-27 for consideration by the Examiner and submit that these claims do not contain any prohibited new matter. Claims 9-27 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 9-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended these claims to further clarify the invention and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-19 (sic) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura et al. Applicants assume that the Examiner means claims 9-19, and respectfully traverses these rejections.

Kawamura et al. discloses an Open Descriptor demanding an access right being transmitted from a personal computer to a DVD player. In response to this demand, the DVD player transmits either an Accept response or a Reject response. Upon receiving the Accept response, the personal computer transmits a Write Descriptor. The Write Descriptor indicates an instruction that data having a data

length is written into an address of a sender. Upon receiving this Write Descriptor, the DVD player transmits the Accept Write Descriptor indicating that the writing instruction has been accepted. Thus, in an authentication protocol, data is transmitted in accordance with the size of the buffer for use in an electronic machine.

Regarding claims 9-19 and new claims 20-27, Applicants submit that Kawamura et al. does not disclose, suggest, or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, a controller requesting an authentication at a predetermined timing by generating an instruction for authentication request and performing the authentication to external digital signal transmitter apparatuses by exchanging the instruction with the transmission packets and received packets, or requesting authentication by the transmission packets from the digital signal receiver to external digital signal transmitter apparatuses connected to the digital signal receiver apparatus under various conditions, such as, when the digital signal receiver apparatus is turned on, or when the digital signal receiver apparatus is connected to one of external signal transmitter apparatuses, or when the input terminal connected to the digital signal bus is selected by a switching circuit, or when the controller searches for external digital signal transmitter apparatuses connected to the digital signal bus and then finds the external digital signal transmitter apparatuses, or when the controller finds external digital signal transmitter apparatuses which are transmitting a digital video signal and/or a digital audio signal, or when the controller finds external digital signal transmitter apparatuses which are transmitting a digital video signal and/or a digital audio signal

that cannot be copied freely, or when the controller finds external digital signal transmitter apparatuses which were previously registered, or when the controller finds external digital signal transmitter apparatuses which the digital signal receiver apparatus received a digital video signal and/or a digital audio signal from in the past. Kawamura et al. merely relates to performing authentication processing regardless of the buffer size of an electronic machine by transmitting authentication data together with a data length. Kawamura et al. does not disclose or suggest a controller requesting an authentication at a predetermined timing by generating an instruction for authentication request and performing the authentication by exchanging the instruction with transmission packets and received packets, as recited in the claims of the present application. The Examiner asserts that it is inherent that authentication is at predetermined timing since timing is critical in digital processing apparatuses, but provides no disclosure in Kawamura et al. and no supporting reference to support this assertion. Moreover, Applicants submit that Kawamura et al. does not disclose or suggest requesting authentication by transmission packets from a digital signal receiver to external digital signal transmitter apparatuses connected to the digital signal receiver apparatus, when the digital signal receiver apparatus is turned on. The Examiner takes official notice that these limitations in the claims of the present application are "notoriously old and well-known in the art", but again provides no supporting reference to support this assertion. In addition, Kawamura et al. does not disclose or suggest any of the other limitations, in the claims of the present application, for requesting authentication by

transmission packets from a digital signal receiver, including for example, when the input terminal connected to the digital signal bus is selected by a switching circuit, or when the controller searches for external digital signal transmitter apparatuses connected to the digital signal bus and then finds the external digital signal transmitter apparatuses, or when the controller finds external digital signal transmitter apparatuses which are transmitting a digital video signal and/or a digital audio signal, or when the controller finds external digital signal transmitter apparatuses which are transmitting a digital video signal and/or a digital audio signal that cannot be copied freely, etc.

Regarding claims 10-19, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on independent claim 9 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding this independent claim. For example, Applicants submit that Kawamura et al. does not disclose or suggest a controller requesting authentication when a digital signal receiver apparatus is turned on, or when external digital signal transmitter apparatuses are turned on, or when a digital signal receiver apparatus is connected to a digital signal bus, or when external digital signal transmitter apparatuses are connected to a digital signal bus.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Kawamura et al. does not disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 9-27 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 9-27 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.37414X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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